

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT /PARA 2/

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UN, UNEP, EAID, SENV

SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION: FINANCIAL-INSTITUTIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS

REF: A) NAIROBI 11504; B) NAIROBI 11529; C) NAIROBI 11532;
D) STATE 213933

1. IN FINAL PLENARY SESSION,
CONFERENCE ADOPTED TWO MEASURES ON WHICH US HAD TO RESERVE
POSITION:
A) CONSULTATION GROUP. PLENARY ADOPTED, AS AN ACTION
RECOMMENDATION IN THE THE PLAN OF ACTION, THAT UNEP EXDIR SHOULD
CONVENE CONSULTATIVE GROUP IMMEDIATELY AFTER UNGA APPROVAL
PLAN OF ACTION. LANGUAGE IMPLIES CONTINUING CHARACTER
OF SUCH GROUP, AND SPEAKS OF "COORDINATING RESROUCES
MOBILIZED BY IT." USDEL SOUGHT REPLACE ENTIRE PARA BY
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WEOG-APPROVED PROPOSAL FOR TEMPORARY CG WITH CLEARLY
DEFINED SCOPE REVIEW ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR
LATER FINAL DETERMINATION, AS WELL AS AVAILABLE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES. PROPOSAL FAILED IN VOTE (18(US)-26-21. ORIGINAL
PARAGRAPH THEN APPROVED 35-1-31(US). LARGE NUMBER
ABSTENTIONS REFLECTED UNEASINESS OVER VARIOUS INTERPRE-
TATIONS THAT COULD BE GIVEN TO CG CONCEPT THEREIN, AND

HELPED US IN EMPHASIZING (SEE BELOW) THAT IMPLEMENTATION THIS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SECTIONS BE DONE IN SPIRIT OF SEEKING CONSENSUS.

B. SPECIAL ACCOUNT. AFRICA GROUP MOVED TO AMEND COMMITTEE OF WHOLE RECOMMENDATION TO EFFECT THAT UNGA WOULD TAKE STEPS TO CREATE A SPECIAL ACCOUNT, ON A GLOBAL BASIS, WITHIN UN SYSTEM, TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION. ORIGINAL COMMITTEE WHOLE RECOMMENDATION WAS ONLY FOR STUDY OF THE IDEA. AFRICA GROUP AMENDMENT PASSED 37-18-(US)-18.

2. THESE ACTIONS WERE PRODUCT OF DETERMINED EFFORT BY CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GENERAL TOLBA TO ASSURE CERTAIN SPECIFIC MEASURES WERE IN FACT APPROVE, PLUS GENERAL ATTITUDE AMONG G-77 AND PARTICULARLY AFRICANS TO SEEK APPROVAL SPECIAL ACCOUNT. AS RESULT, CONSENSUS REACHED EARLIER AT SUB-GROUP, WORKING GROUP, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE LEVELS WAS PLENARY.

3. ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR CG HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY US AT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PREVIOUS EVENING, WHERE IT WAS RECEIVED WITHOUT OBJECTION. TWO OTHER PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE WERE MADE AT SAME TIME. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THEN ASKED SECRETARIAT TO REFLECT THESE PROPOSALS IN COMMITTEE REPORT, TO BE SUBMITTED TO PLENARY FOLLOWING DAY. AT THIS POINT, SECRETARIAT COULD EASILY HAVE MELDED THREE PROPOSALS INTO FINAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS AND SUB-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MITTED IT TO PLENARY AS PACKAGE FOR FINAL, CONSENSUS APPROVAL. SECRETARIAT (TOWNLEY, MENDEZ) RECOMMENDED THIS OPTION TO TOLBA AND PREPARED PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THIS BASIS. TOLBA REJECTED SECRETARIAT ADVICE AND ELECTED INSTEAD TO SUBMIT ALL THREE PROPOSALS TO VOTE AT FINAL PLENARY SESSION, THUS ASSURING THERE WOULD BE NO CONSENSUS ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS AND OPENING UP OPPORTUNITY TO ADVOCATES OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT TO MOVE IT OUT OF "STUDY" CATEGORY.

4. IN PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF CG AND SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOLLOWING ARE NOTEWORTHY DETAILS. EE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ABSTAINED ON BOTH QUESTIONS, BUT IN STATEMENTS (POLAND,GDR) MADE CLEAR THEIR PREFERENCE FOR USING EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL ACCOUNT. CAPITAL-SURPLUS ARAB STATES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA, ABSTAINED ON BOTH QUESTIONS. JAPAN WAS ONLY STATE TO VOTE AGAINST PARAGRAPH ON CG AFTER US PROPOSAL WAS DEFEATED. NORWAY STATED POSITION FOR WESTERN (WEO) GROUP ON SPECIAL ACCOUNT: "ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OR YET ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL FUND IS NOS SUSCEPTIBLE TO INCREASE IN EFFICIENCY OR TOTAL VOLUME OF RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR CONCRETE

MEASURES. IT SHOULD BE REALIZED THAT FINANCING OF LARGER PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE PLAN OF ACTION WILL HAVE TO COME FROM GENERAL AID APPROPRIATIONS IN DONOR COUNTRIES AND BE DECIDED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMING AND THE OVERALL PRIORITY-SETTING ON THE PART OF AFFECTED COUNTRIES."

5. IN FACE NUMEROUS RESERVATIONS FOLLOWING VOTE ON SPECIAL ACCOUNT, AND AT END OF CONFERENCE CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MESURES, SECRETARY-GENERAL REMINDED CONFERENCE THAT ALL SECTIONS HAVING FINANCIAL OR BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS, NO MATTER HOW WORDED AS ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS, WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO ECOSOC AND EVENTUALLY UNGA BEFORE THEY CAN BE APPROVED.

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6. WITH SETTLING OF FINANCIAL SECTIONS-A PROCESS TAKING SEVERAL HOURS-REMAINDER PLAN OF ACTION WAS QUICKLY APPROVED. US DEL BELIEVES TOTAL EFFORT CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFUL AND FELT US COULD ENDORSE PLAN OF ACTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PREVIOUS RESERVATIONS. US DEL THEREFORE MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AFTR PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED:

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE WORK DONE AT THIS CONFERENCE. WE LEND OUR FULL SUPPORT TO THE PLAN OF ACTION AND HOPES THAT IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN VERY PART OF THE WORLD THREATENED BY DESERTIFICATION.

"THE UNITED STATES INVITES ATTENTION TO THE CAREFUL DISCUSSION DURING THE CONFERENCE ON THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN OF ACTION. CHAPTERS V AND VI MENTION MANY STEPS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT A FINAL REPORT ON FINANCING TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT ITS 33RD SESSION. WE HOPE THESE STEPS CAN BE TAKEN IN THE SPIRIT OF SEEKING, WITH CONSENSUS, AGREEMENT ON ANY FINANCING MECHANISMS. IT IS WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE KEY PARAGRAPHS OF CHAPTER VI THAT THE US DELEGATION ENDORSES THE PLAN.

"OF GREATER IMPORTANCE IS THE APPROVAL BY THIS CONFERENCE OF A PLAN OF ACTION THAT CALLS UPON EVERY STATE, REGION, AND RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO TAKE ACTION ON THE VITAL PROBLEM OF DESERTIFICATION. WE PLEDGE THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THIS EFFORT. MY DELEGATION REQUESTS THAT THIS STATEMENT BE RECORDED. END QUOTE.

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